

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 01412 050502Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 NIC-01 SAJ-01 BIB-01 SS-15

L-02 SR-02 ORM-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /062 W

----- 021804

R 050421Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5198

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1412

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, UR

SUBJECT: ERMOLENKO CASE REVISITED; EX-DEFECTOR

SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO AUSTRALIA TO RESIDE

REF: CANBERRA 5314, AUG 14, 1974

1. GEORGI ERMOLENKO, 18-YEAR OLD VIOLINIST WHO SOUGHT TO DEFECT DURING VISIT BY STRING QUARTET OF MOSCOW MUSIC COLLEGE TO AUSTRALIA IN AUGUST, 1974, HAS LEFT SOVIET UNION WITH HIS PARENTS AND ARRIVED IN VIENNA FEB 27 ENROUTE TO AUSTRALIA. MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION CAMERON ANNOUNCED PENDING ARRIVL OF ERMOLENKO FAMILY AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 4, AT WHICH HE SOUGHT TO GET MAXIMUM POLITICAL MILEAGE OUT OF NEW SITUATION.

2. AFTER RETURNING TO SOVIET UNION LAST FALL, ERMOLENKO APPARENTLY APPLIED, WITH HIS PARENTS, FOR EXIT VISAS FOR ISRAEL (HIS MOTHER IS A JEW). ERMOLENKO'S FATHER WAS FIFTH VIOLINIST IN MOSCOW STATE SYMPHONY, AND HIS MOTHER WAS FOURTH VIOLINIST IN BOLSHOI ORCHESTRA. CAMERON EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ERMOLENKO'S COULD PLAY FOR SYDNEY SYMPHONY BUT ALSO SUGGESTED THEY MIGHT WANT TO PLAY IN AUSTRALIA AS A TRIO. CAMERON INDICATED THAT GOA HAD ONLY BECOME AWARE OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CANBER 01412 050502Z

NEWSITUATION FEB 28, WHEN ERMOLENKO APPROACHED AUSTRALIAN

EMBASSY IN VIENNA WITH REQUEST FOR IMMIGRATION VISAS FOR AUSTRALIA. ACTING WITH CONSIDERABLE DISPATCH, GOA APPROVED THEIR APPLICATIONS, AND ERMOLENKO FAMILY EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA NEXT WEEK.

3. COMMENT: GOA HANDLING OF ERMOLENKO CASE LAST YEAR WAS SURPRISINGLY CLUMSY, IN VIEW OF EFFICIENT AND SKILLFUL MANNER IN WHICH GOA HAS HANDLED OTHER DEFECTION CASES, INCLUDING TWO DEFECTORS FROM HUNGARIAN ICCS CONTINGENT IN SAIGON IN 1973-74. CAMERON SOUGHT TO SUGGEST THAT GOA DECISION TO RETURN ERMOLENKO TO SOVIET UNION LAST YEAR WAS ONLY WAY HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN HIS PARENTS OUT OF SOVIET UNION AS WELL. HOWEVER, APPEARS THAT NEW ERMOLENKO DEVELOPMENT CAUGHT GOA AS MUCH BY SURPRISE AS ANYONE ELSE, THOUGH UNUSUALLY PROMPT ACTION REFLECTS ITS AWARENESS THAT RETURNING ERMOLENKO TO SOVIET CONTROL WAS NOT RPT NOT POPULAR MEASURE AT TIME. RIGHT-WING IMMIGRANT AND ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUPS WILL CERTAINLY RETURN TO THE CHARGE ON THIS ISSUE, AND MORE WILL BE HEARD OF ERMOLENKO AFFAIR AFTER ARRIVAL OF FAMILY NEXT WEEK.
HARROP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEFECTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER01412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750076-0580
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750382/aaaacvjh.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CANBERRA 5314, 75 AUG 14, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ERMOLLENKO CASE REVISITED; EX-DEFECTOR SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO AUSTRALIA TO RESIDE
TAGS: PFOR, AS, UR, (ERMOLLENKO, GEORGI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006